WINCHESTER NEWS
A TRUSTED AND RELIABLE SOURCE OF LOCAL NEWS

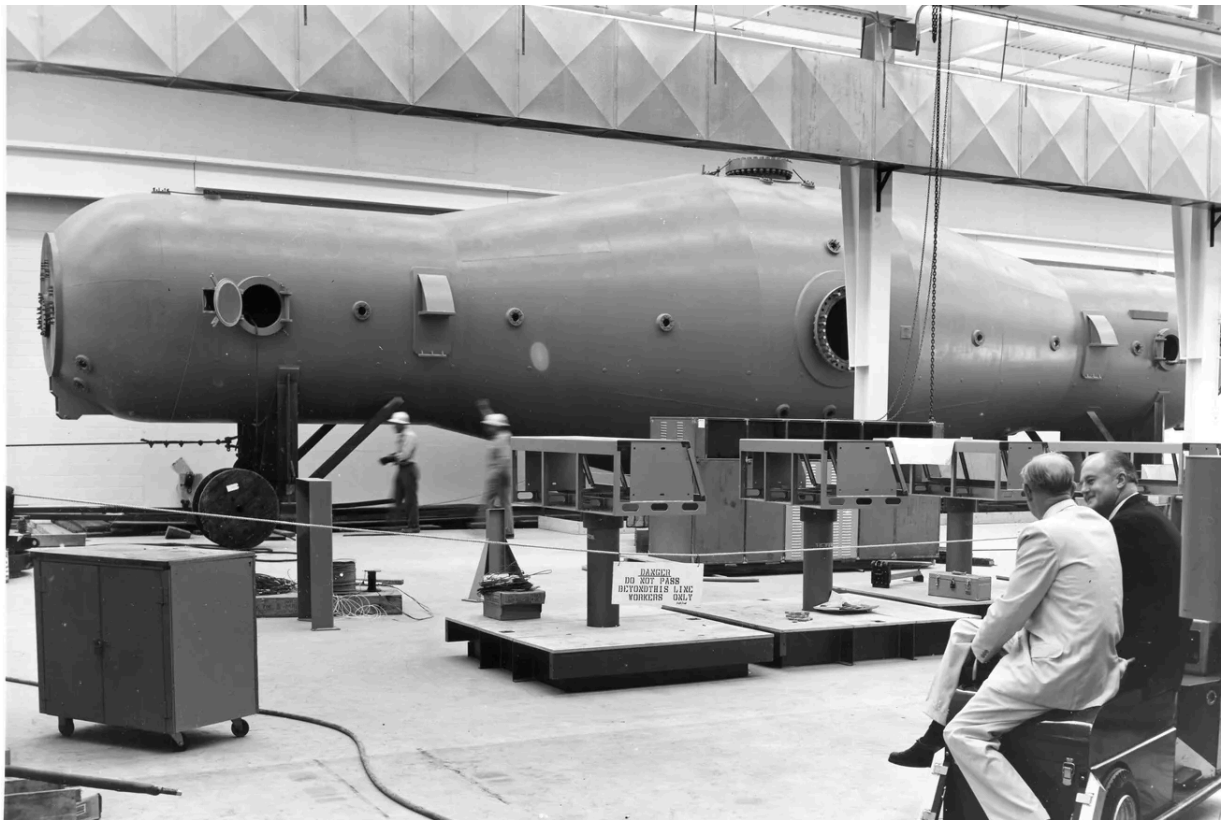
Donate

DONATE | NEWS | SPORTS | EVENTS | FEATURES | OPINION | NEWSLETTER | CONTACT | ABOUT

Donald Trump's uncle John G. Trump once lived in Winchester

JOYCE WESTNER | STAFF WRITER

September 24, 2024 . 6:00 AM — 2 min read



The tank for High Voltage Engineering's Emperor tandem testing facility is moved into the building in1963, while John G. Trump, left, and Robert Van de Graaff look on. COURTESY PHOTO/AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS/EMILIO SEGRE VISUAL ARCHIVES/PHYSICS TODAY COLLECTION

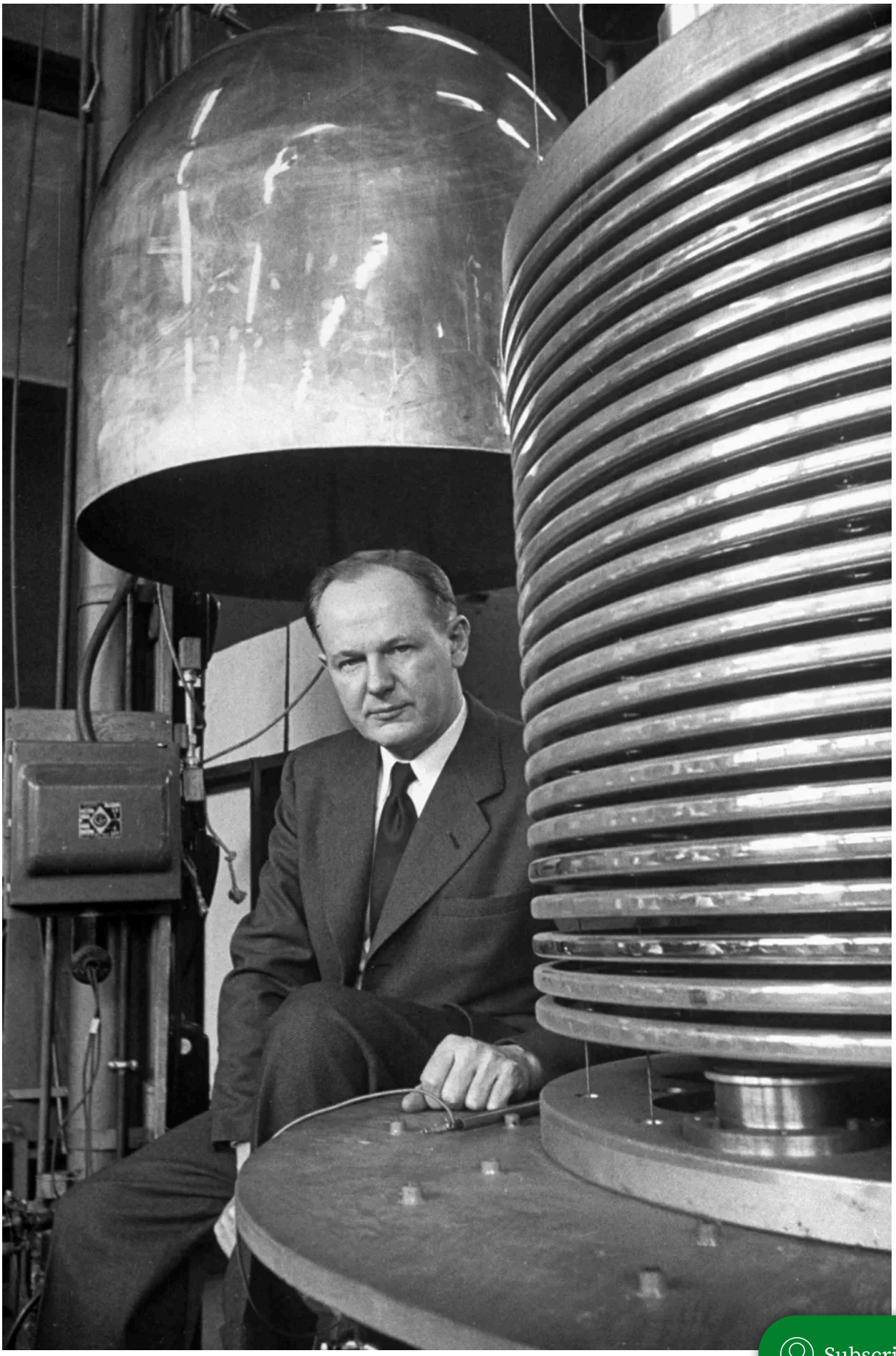
While clearing up the Unitarian Society's archives, Kathy Richard
Judy Murray recently came across donor information from an un

Subscribe

source — John G. Trump was a member of the congregation until his death in the1980s.

If you're wondering if he's any relation to the former president, yes, John G. Trump was Donald's uncle, and a well-known engineer.

Subscribe



The physicist John Trump, in a high-voltage research lab at MIT. He was not only the younger b
Donald Trump's father, Fred, but once lived in Winchester. COURTESY PHOTO/ALFRED EISENSTAEDT/THE LIFE PICTURE COLLECTION/GETTY

Subscribe

Trump lived with his family at 8 Cambridge St., where he and his wife, Elora, raised three children, John, Christine and Karen.

Winchester resident Tinie Noordzij recalls spending time with the family at their home.

Trump worked with Robert J. Van de Graaff at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where in 1937, he designed a radiation machine for cancer treatment. A second machine was used at Massachusetts General Hospital in 1938, before Trump turned his attention to a second interest.

In 1944, he worked with the Eisenhower Military Command on radar equipment. At the liberation of Paris, Trump rode into the city with Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower.

He was later given the King's Medal for Service in the Cause of Freedom by King George VI in 1947 and the President's Certificate of Merit by President Harry S. Truman in 1948.

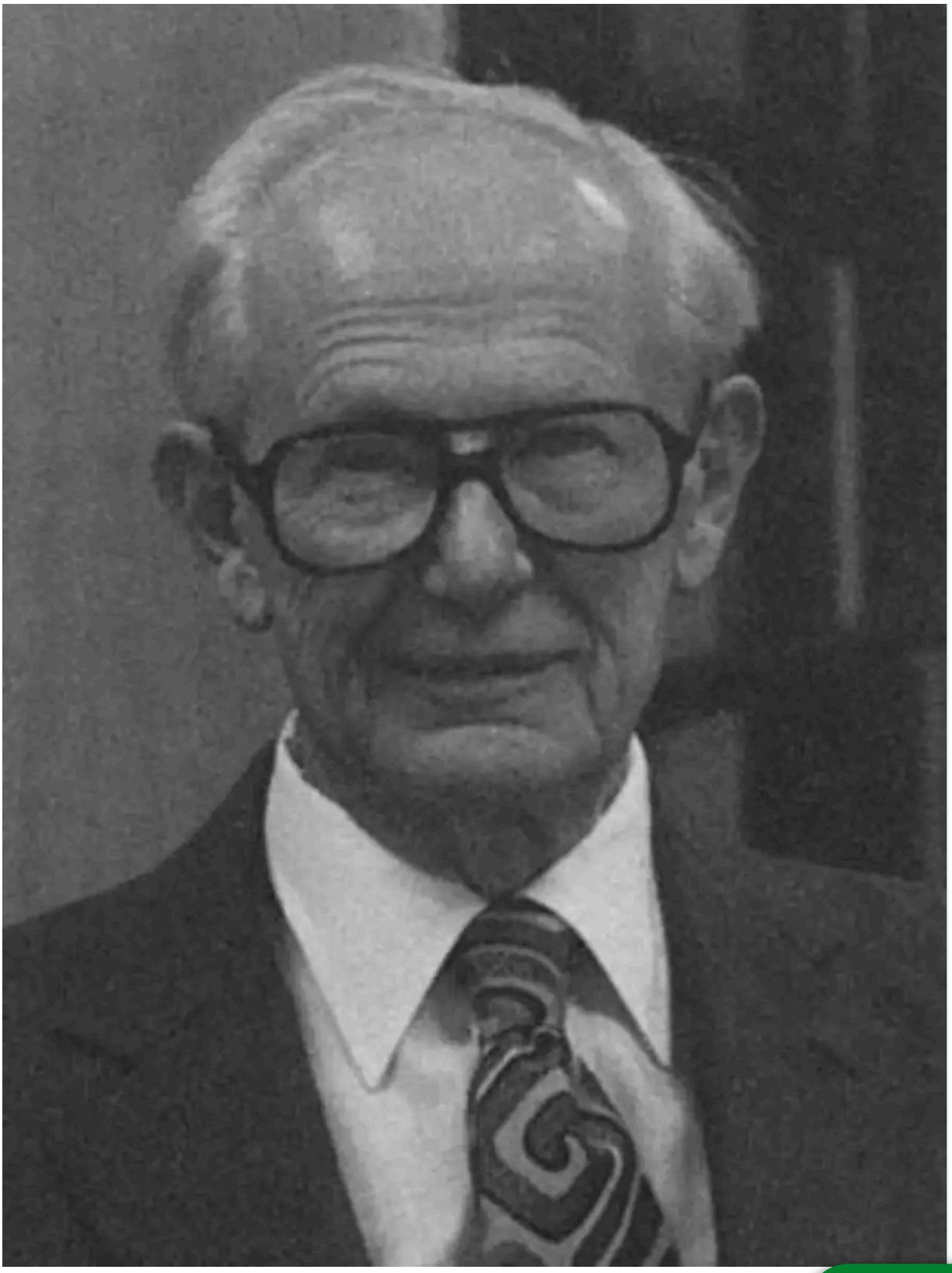
Don't be left in the dark. Signup for our free newsletter!

After World War II, Trump, Van de Graaff and Denis M. Robinson founded High Voltage Engineering in Burlington, where they worked on various applications, including techniques for radiation beams shaped to protect healthy tissues in coordination with Lahey Clinic, where a section of the hospital is named after Trump.

A colleague recalled he was always friendly at High Voltage: "He'd walk through the lab, talking to everybody."

Subscribe

Winchester Archivist Ellen Knight said there's no way to tell if he was affiliated with a political party.



John G. Trump lived in Winchester with his wife and three children. COURTESY PHOTO/WIKIP

Subscribe

"I can see from the registration books that party affiliation was not part of registering through at least the early 1980s," Knight said.

John Trump was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 1977. He was posthumously given the National Medal of Science in 1985.

He died in Boston on Feb. 21, 1985 at the age of 77.

Winchester News is a non-profit organization supported by our community. If you appreciate having local Winchester news, please donate to support our work, and subscribe to our free weekly newsletter.

Latest

EVENTS

Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the

NEWS

Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and quest
student mental health. Hea
and John Bellaire are competing for an open

Subscribe

Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

March 4, 2026

seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 4, 2026

FEATURES

'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents "Chicago: Teen Edition," a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

March 4, 2026

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents 'Syldason: You Are Welcome Here'

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

March 4, 2026

WINCHESTER NEWS
A TRUSTED AND RELIABLE SOURCE OF LOCAL NEWS
Subscribe

Subscribe to Winchester News

© 2026 Winchester News Group, Inc. Copying and sharing with permission for non-commercial use only.

Subscribe